

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A storage and dispensing apparatus, comprising a fluid storage and dispensing vessel having associated therewith a colorimetric member effective in exposure to fluid leaking from the vessel to change color, thereby providing a visually perceptible response to a leakage event.
2. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a sheet-form element having a colorimetric agent associated therewith which is effective to change color in exposure to the fluid leakage.
3. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the sheet-form element is impregnated with the colorimetric agent.
4. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 3, wherein the colorimetric member is mounted on the fluid storage and dispensing vessel.
5. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 4, wherein the colorimetric member is mounted on a valve head of the fluid storage and dispensing vessel.
6. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a film.
7. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the film is a shrink-wrap film.

8. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the shrink-wrap film is impregnated with a colorimetric agent effective to undergo color change in exposure to the leaking fluid.
9. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the shrink-wrap film contains a colorimetric agent effective to undergo color change in exposure to the leaking fluid.
10. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film shrouding an upper portion of the fluid storage and dispensing vessel.
11. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film enshrouding the fluid storage and dispensing vessel.
12. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film containing or having associated therewith a colorimetric agent effective to undergo color change in exposure to leaking fluid.
13. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film formed of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyolefin, polyvinyl chloride and polyester.
14. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film formed of polyvinyl chloride.

15. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the colorimetric member includes a shrink-wrap film effective to undergo color change in the presence of leaking fluid.
16. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 15, wherein the shrink-wrap film has a getter associated therewith.
17. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 16, wherein the getter is on an interior surface of the shrink-wrap film.
18. The fluid storage and dispensing apparatus of claim 16, wherein the getter is disposed on an exterior surface of the fluid storage and dispensing vessel, in an interior volume enclosed by the shrink-wrap film.
19. A method of visually detecting a leakage event associated with a fluid storage and dispensing vessel, said method comprising disposing in fluid leakage detection proximity to the vessel a colorimetric member effective to undergo color change in exposure to leaking fluid from the vessel.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a sheet-form element having a colorimetric agent associated therewith which is effective to change color in exposure to the fluid leakage.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the sheet-form element is impregnated with the colorimetric agent.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the colorimetric member is mounted on the fluid storage and dispensing vessel.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the colorimetric member is mounted on a valve head of the fluid storage and dispensing vessel.
24. The method of claim 19, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a film.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the film is a shrink-wrap film.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein the shrink-wrap film is impregnated with a colorimetric agent effective to undergo color change in exposure to the leaking fluid.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the shrink-wrap film contains a colorimetric agent effective to undergo color change in exposure to the leaking fluid.
28. The method of claim 19, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film shrouding an upper portion of the fluid storage and dispensing vessel.
29. The method of claim 19, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film enshrouding the fluid storage and dispensing vessel.
30. The method of claim 19, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film containing or having associated therewith a colorimetric agent effective to undergo color change in exposure to the leaking fluid.
31. The method of claim 19, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film formed of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyolefin, polyvinyl chloride and polyester.

32. The method of claim 19, wherein the colorimetric member comprises a shrink-wrap film formed of polyvinyl chloride.
33. The method of claim 19, wherein the colorimetric member includes a shrink-wrap film effective to undergo color change in the presence of leaking fluid.
34. The method of claim 33, wherein the shrink-wrap film has a getter associated therewith.
35. The method of claim 34, wherein the getter is on an interior surface of the shrink-wrap film.
36. The method of claim 34, wherein the getter is disposed on an exterior surface of the fluid storage and dispensing vessel, in an interior volume enclosed by the shrink-wrap film.